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Recreation Commission Minutes 04/13/2010

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:45 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Nancy Campbell and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Elena Bartholomew, Paul Carroll, Jeanne Leary, Sue Doctrow, Josie Burton, Robin Varghese, Stephen Weil.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the March 09, 2010 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

Ms. Leary asked questions regarding the cost of the Sasaki Master Plan and about the final RFP for the Summer Street Playground. Mr. Connelly stated that he would be happy to share that information and for Ms. Leary to stop by the Recreation Department to discuss both issues.

Field Permitting Comprehensive Policy Discussion and Approval

Mr. Connelly reviewed the policy and any written feedback received. Mr. Connelly indicated that he did have comments from Youth Baseball, Babe Ruth, Arlington Soccer Club, Mr. Joel Higgenson and Ms. Jeanne Leary.

The Commission discussed the feedback received. Mr. Carroll discussed Youth Baseball's desire to work with the neighborhood with regards to light usage and sound. Mr. Carroll stated that Arlington youth baseball is looking into purchasing light shields on their own.

The Commission discussed the amplification issue with Mr. Carroll and stated that the number of amplified events should be limited and the usage of amplification when used should also be limited. Ms. Mayer stated that all current BOH sound regulations must be adhered to, which includes a 9pm end time. Mr. Carroll and Ms. Bartholomew indicated that amplification was limited to the end of year graduation event and were invited back to the June Commission meeting to discuss the plans further.

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Carroll how the light key distribution worked. Mr. Carroll explained that only the Board received keys and that board members were assigned nights to turn on and off the lights. Lights are not being managed by individual coaches. Ms. Mayer asked if Mr. Connelly could get a copy of the schedule, along with contact information. Mr. Carroll agreed that could be done. Mr. Carroll reviewed the light schedule stating that lights were turned on May 10th with no games scheduled for Sunday nights and then except for a reduced summer league schedule were off by mid June.

Mr. Carroll and Mr. Robillard discussed that both Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken already have organization regulations restricting the time of the game to no inning can start after two hours.

Mr. Robillard and the Commission discussed their concerns with timers. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to research the cost of timers and remote light control capability. Mr. Connelly stated that he would continue to try to coordinate the evaluation of any necessary light maintenance and the direction of the lights with DPW.

Mr. Carroll did suggest that his organization could groom the field before the games and not after the last lighted game to save time and potential electricity cost.

The Commission discussed the increasing levels of penalties and whether or not one or more could be eliminated. It was felt that the language around subsequent offenses could be removed but that all other levels were needed, including a written warning as the first step. Mr. Connelly stated that the Field Policy would be a living-breathing document that would change and adapt as needed.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the changes with the Commission. The Commission amended the policy respectively.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve the policy as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Warrant Article 36

Ms. Mayer reviewed the warrant article and the history behind it. Ms. Doctrow, the article's proponent, reviewed the specific language, her reasoning and answered questions related to the warrant article. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the current status of the Fenced OLA Task Force. Mr. Connelly explained that the task force was only looking at fenced options and that a study was being performed by Leonard Design to look at preliminary design and budget estimates for Arlington. The task force had met with the Somerville Director of Parks & Open Space, who reviewed their experience with fenced off-leash areas and had indicated that \$28/sq. ft. with a recommended 10,000/sq. ft. per location was a rough estimate for planning. With that ballpark figure, it is expected that fenced areas are a long-term option that will have to be factored into the Commission's Capital Plan.

Ms. Rothenberg asked why 9 AM was being discussed verse 8 AM. The Commission discussed the times proposed with Ms. Doctrow, who indicated that initially proponents were considering 10am but that seemed to give more opportunity for conflict with other uses. Mr. Robillard stated that the times were very restrictive but made sense for the time being. Ms. Mayer and Mr.

Connelly reviewed the stipulation in the bylaw that gave the Park Commission full policy making authority.

Mr. Robillard motion to have the Park and Recreation Commission support Article 36 seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Arlington Sport Center Renovation Project

Mr. Connelly updated the Commission on the renovation project stating that currently the project was on time and on budget. Mr. Connelly stated that the low e-ceiling work was about to begin and that the dehumidification work was just about completed.

Recreation and Rink Update

Mr. Connelly stated that Spring and Summer registration was underway and registration was trickling in.

Special Event Approvals

6/6 – Soap Box Derby – Robbins Farm – Motion to approve by Mr. Robillard, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from the Friends of Robbins Farm:

Friends of Robbins-clean-up	5/2
FOR-Kite	5/2

FOR-4 th July	7/4
FOR-Movie Night	8/21
FOR-Baseball	10/1
FOR-Field Day	10/23
FOR-clean-up	11/7

Mr. Connelly stated that police details would be required at the 4th of July event, Movie Night and Baseball Nights. The Commission discussed the amplification policy with regards to the 9 pm bylaw. The Commission discussed approving the permits with the condition that the Board of Health approves any amplification past 9 pm.

Ms. Campbell motioned to approve with the condition of BOH approval of the amplification past 9 pm, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0

5/13, 5/14 – Spy Pond Field – 9 AM – 3 PM – Lesley Ellis - Motion to approve by Mr. Robillard, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly reviewed Mr. McLaughlin's request for a summer and fall softball tournament. The Commission stated they would only focus on the summer tournament at this time. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed the fields necessary.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve Buzzell, Peirce, Florence, Hurd and restrict Bishop as needed for the July 23-25th tournament, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly discussed the Friends of Menotomy Rock Park Earth Day Celebration. The Commission would like some more information on the details of the event. Mr. Connelly will contact Ms. Weinberg. The Commission discussed the bike sale/swap. Mr. Connelly stated that there are issues with allowing private sales on public land. Mr. Robillard motioned to deny the request at this time, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Capital Improvement Update

Thorndike Parking - Project scheduled to begin in June

Summer Street Playground – The bids are being reviewed with final approval pending.
North Union Basketball Court – Temporarily on hold.

Other

Ms. Robillard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation